CURRENT AFFAIRS — 23 OCTOBER 2026

Friday, 23 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Bihar + National • BPSC Prelims & Mains digest

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR BPSC CCE

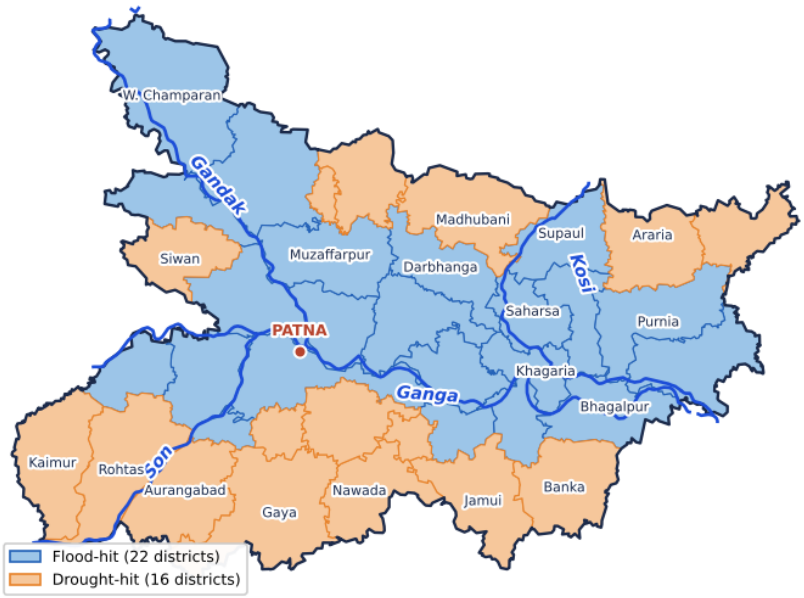
TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Bihar MLC polls today for **8 seats** (4 Graduates' + 4 Teachers'); counting on **27 Oct**.
- **VB-G RAM G** works resume in all **38** Bihar districts — **22 flood-hit**, **16 drought-hit**.
- VB-G RAM G guarantees **125 days** of work; funding **60:40** (Centre:State).
- **Bihar AI Policy 2026**: train **5 lakh** students in **5 years** (1 lakh/yr).
- CM orders **2,996** school buildings, **16,440** classrooms; campuses for **211** degree colleges.
- Bihar paddy buying from **1 Nov** (North) / **15 Nov** (South) at MSP **₹2,441/qtl**.
- Retail inflation **5.54%** in Sep 2026; food inflation **7.74%**.
- Polish PM **Donald Tusk** in India (21–23 Oct) — first Polish PM visit since **2010**.
- **7th AgriVoltaics World Conference** at **Bharat Mandapam** — first in Global South.
- **SIMBEX-2026** (33rd, Visakhapatnam) and **AUSTRAHIND-2026** (5th, Thiruvananthapuram) under way.

SECTION A • BIHAR SPECIAL

State schemes, polity, economy & culture

BIHAR 2026: FLOOD-HIT NORTH, DROUGHT-HIT SOUTH — VB-G RAM G WORK RESUMES IN ALL 38 DISTRICTS



38
districts: work restarts

22 + 16
flood-hit + drought-hit

125 days
work guarantee / household / yr

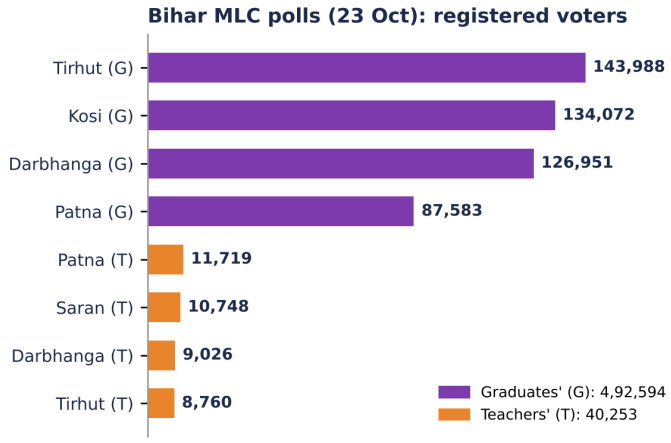
60 : 40
Centre : State funding

22 Oct–10 Dec
planned pause now lifted

Bihar MLC Biennial Polls: 8 Graduates' & Teachers' Seats Vote Today

[BIHAR] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Polity)

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II — State Legislature, Legislative Council (**Art. 169, 171**), elections; Prelims — composition of **Bihar Vidhan Parishad**, special electorates.
Context	Polling is under way today (**23 Oct 2026**) for **8 seats** of the **Bihar Legislative Council** — **4 Graduates'** and **4 Teachers'** constituencies — in biennial polls notified by the **Election Commission of India**; votes will be counted on **27 Oct 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Graduates' seats: **Patna, Tirhut, Darbhanga, Kosi**; Teachers' seats: **Patna, Saran, Darbhanga, Tirhut**. ■ Electorate: **4,92,594** graduate voters and **40,253** teacher voters; **Tirhut Graduates'** is the largest (**1,43,988**). ■ Same-day council polls also in **Karnataka, Maharashtra** and **Uttar Pradesh**. ■ Voting is by **ballot paper** with **preferential (single transferable) vote** — not EVMs. ■ Council Chairman's post fell vacant after **Awadhesh Narayan Singh** resigned (Sep 2026).
Way Fwd	Keep graduate/teacher rolls updated year-round and raise awareness about preferential voting to cut invalid ballots.
Concept	**Art. 171(3)**: in a Council, **1/3** elected by MLAs, **1/3** by local bodies, **1/12** by **graduates** (3 yrs' standing), **1/12** by **teachers** (3 yrs, secondary or higher), rest (~**1/6**) **nominated by Governor**. Bihar Council: **75 members**; MLC term **6 years**, **1/3** retire every 2 years.



Rural Jobs Pause Lifted: VB-G RAM G Works Resume in All 38 Districts

[BIHAR] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy & Geography)

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II — Bihar economy (rural employment, migration), Bihar geography (**floods & drought**); Prelims — welfare schemes, flood-prone districts.
Context	A **Rural Development Department** order (**21 Oct**) has lifted the planned halt on new works from **22 Oct to 10 Dec 2026** — meant to keep farm labour free for harvest and rabi sowing — because **22 districts** were flood-hit and **16** drought-hit this year.

Key Facts	■ **VB-G RAM G** = **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)**; in force from **1 July 2026**, replacing **MGNREGA**. ■ Guarantee: up to **125 days** of unskilled wage work per rural household per year (vs **100** under MGNREGA). ■ Funding share **Centre: State = 60: 40**. ■ Flood-hit include **Supaul, Saharsa, Madhepura, Khagaria, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Patna**; drought-hit include **Gaya, Nalanda, Nawada, Aurangabad, Rohtas, Kaimur**. ■ Priority works: **water conservation**, road repair, **Anganwadi centres**, school sheds, disaster preparedness.
Way Fwd	Converge works with **Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali** and flood-repair plans; ensure timely wage payment to check distress migration.
Concept	**Bihar's dual hazard**: North Bihar (Kosi, Gandak, Bagmati, Mahananda basins) is flood-prone; South Bihar (Son–Punpun, plateau fringe) is drought-prone. Right to work links to **Art. 41** (DPSP). **MGNREGA** was enacted in **2005**.

Bihar AI Policy 2026: Target to Train 5 Lakh Students in 5 Years

[BIHAR] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Science & Technology)**

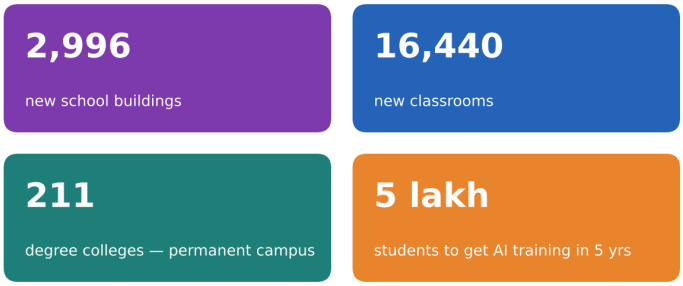
Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II — role and impact of **S&T** in Bihar's development; Prelims — state policies, IT & emerging technologies.
Context	CM **Samrat Choudhary** reviewed the **Bihar Artificial Intelligence Policy 2026** on **22 Oct 2026** and asked the **IT Department** to form a specialised team to implement it within a fixed timeline.
Key Facts	■ Target: **5 lakh** students trained in AI over **5 years** — **1 lakh per year**. ■ A major **annual AI event** every year for five years to draw investors. ■ Incentives for AI companies, **startups** and digital enterprises, incl. support for **large AI models**. ■ Focus on AI **infrastructure**, **digital skills**, innovation and entrepreneurship. ■ Complements the new **Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee AI & Computer Science University, Bhagalpur**.
Way Fwd	Route training through ITIs, polytechnics and colleges with Hindi-language AI content; tap national compute under the **IndiaAI Mission**.
Concept	**IndiaAI Mission** (2024, outlay **₹10,371.92 crore**) — compute, datasets, foundation models. **AI**: machines doing tasks needing human intelligence; **LLM**: large language model trained on huge text corpora.

CM's School & College Push: 2,996 Buildings, 16,440 Classrooms

[BIHAR] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy – Human Development)**

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II — Bihar's social sector & human resource development; Prelims — state education initiatives.
Context	Reviewing the **Education** and **Higher Education** departments on **22 Oct 2026**, the CM ordered fast-tracking of **2,996 new school buildings** (**16,440 classrooms**) and permanent campuses for **211** new degree colleges.
Key Facts	■ The **211** block-level degree colleges began classes on **15 July 2026**. ■ Campus designs up to **G+5**; science, arts & library blocks, labs, lecture theatres. ■ **Separate hostels** for male and female students; sites near **block HQs** prioritised. ■ Executing agency: **BSEIDC** (Bihar State Educational Infrastructure Development Corporation).
Way Fwd	Match buildings with faculty recruitment and quality checks; prioritise blocks with the lowest enrolment.
Concept	**Education** moved from State to **Concurrent List** by the **42nd Amendment (1976)**. **Art. 21A** (86th Amendment, 2002): free & compulsory education for **6–14** years. **GER** = enrolment ÷ eligible-age population × 100.

Bihar education push (CM review, 22 Oct 2026)

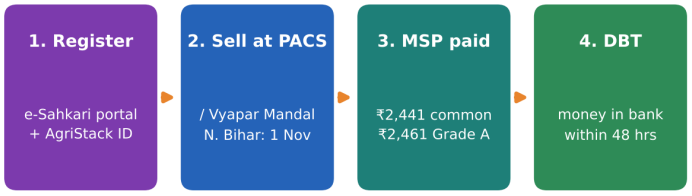


Paddy Procurement from 1 Nov at MSP ₹2,441/qtl; Payment in 48 Hours

[BIHAR] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Bihar Economy – Agriculture)**

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II — agriculture in Bihar, **MSP** & procurement, cooperatives; Prelims — MSP, CACP, PACS.
Context	For **KMS 2026-27**, Bihar will buy paddy from **1 Nov** in **North Bihar** and **15 Nov** in **South Bihar** through **PACS** and **Vyapar Mandals**; online registration is open.
Key Facts	■ MSP **₹2,441/qtl** (common) and **₹2,461/qtl** (**Grade A**). ■ Registration on the **e-Sahkari** portal; **AgriStack Farmer ID** used for verification. ■ Payment to farmers within **48 hours** through DBT. ■ Procurement target may be raised to **50 lakh MT** (under consideration).
Way Fwd	Relax moisture norms for flood-delayed harvests and add PACS-level storage under the cooperative grain-storage plan.
Concept	**MSP** is recommended by **CACP** and approved by the **CCEA** for **22** mandated crops (+ **FRP** for sugarcane). Bihar repealed its **APMC Act in 2006**; it is a **decentralised procurement (DCP)** state.

Bihar paddy procurement 2026-27: how it works



South Bihar starts 15 Nov • Target may rise to 50 lakh MT (under review)

Chhath & Bihar Brand Go Global: CM Ropes in Bihar-Origin IFS Officers

[BIHAR] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Indian Culture – Bihar)**

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-I — Indian culture with **Bihar's** festivals, heritage and diaspora; Prelims — Bihar's fairs, festivals and pilgrimage sites.
Context	On **22 Oct 2026**, the CM met **7 Bihar-origin IFS officers** (posted in Maldives, Rome, Islamabad, Muscat, Paris and the MEA) and urged them to promote **Chhath**, Bihar's tourism and local products abroad, ahead of **Kartik month** (from **27 Oct**).
Key Facts	■ Focus sites: **Gayaji**, **Sultanganj** (Shravani Mela), Sun temples of **Deo (Aurangabad)**, Chhath ghats of **Patna** & **Munger**. ■ Government developing the **Buddhist Circuit** and **eco-tourism**. ■ The **Governor** has also urged a bigger role for the global **Bihari diaspora**. ■ Patna civic body has launched a special **Diwali-Chhath cleanliness drive**.
Way Fwd	Pursue a **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage** nomination for Chhath and diaspora-led Bihar festivals abroad.
Concept	**Chhath**: 4-day worship of **Surya** and **Chhathi Maiya** — **Nahay-Khay → Kharna → Sandhya Arghya → Usha Arghya**; held in **Kartik** and **Chaitra**. Bihari **Girmitiya** diaspora: **Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago**.

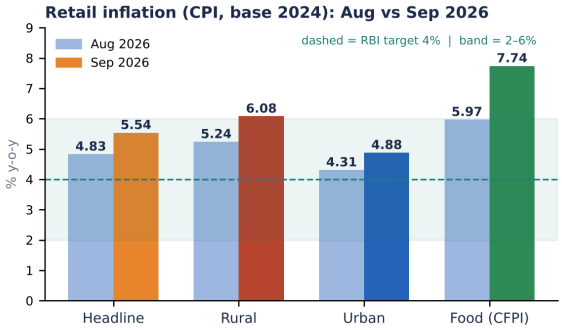
SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY Economy statistic

Retail (CPI) inflation, September 2026

5.54%

Up from **4.83%** in August; **rural 6.08%** vs **urban 4.88%**; food inflation **7.74%** (onion prices up **108%** y-o-y). Still within the RBI's **2–6%** band but above the **4%** target — rural-heavy Bihar feels food inflation more.

Why it matters for BPSC: GS-II asks on inflation measurement (CPI vs WPI), the **flexible inflation targeting** framework (**4% ± 2%**, MPC under **RBI Act Sec. 45ZB**) and food-price shocks in rural Bihar.



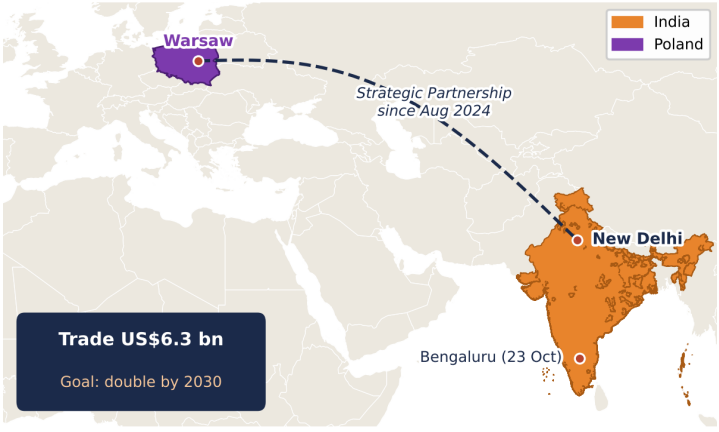
SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD IR, economy, environment, defence, science

India–Poland: Tusk's Visit Deepens Strategic Partnership

[IR] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Current Events – IR)

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-I — current events of national & international importance; Prelims — India's bilateral relations, Europe.
Context	Polish PM **Donald Tusk** (visit **21–23 Oct 2026**) held talks with PM **Narendra Modi** on **22 Oct**; MoUs were exchanged and the leaders focused on **defence, AI and critical minerals**. Tusk is in **Bengaluru** today.
Key Facts	■ First visit by a Polish PM to India since **2010**. ■ Ties elevated to **Strategic Partnership** in **Aug 2024** during Modi's Warsaw visit. ■ Bilateral trade **US$6.3 bn**; aim to **double by 2030**; Indian investment in Poland **> US$3 bn**. ■ Areas: **EV batteries**, renewables, defence & space, **critical minerals**, classified-information pact. ■ Both welcomed the **India–EU FTA**.
Way Fwd	Use Poland as a manufacturing gateway to Central Europe and operationalise the India–EU FTA quickly.
Concept	WWII link: **Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji** of **Nawanagar** sheltered Polish children at **Balachadi**; ~5,000 Polish refugees lived at **Valivade (Kolhapur)**. Poland: member of **EU, NATO** and the **Visegrad Group**; capital **Warsaw**.

Tusk in India (21–23 Oct 2026): first Polish PM visit since 2010



India–US Trade Deal 'Pretty Close': Final Hurdles Remain

[ECONOMY] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Indian Economy)

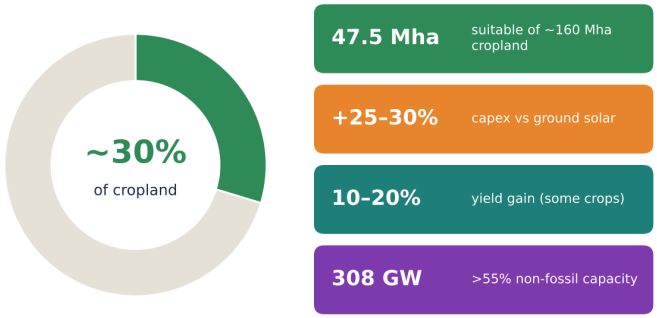
Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II — Indian economy, external trade, trade agreements; Prelims — WTO, tariffs, BTA/FTA.
Context	On **22 Oct 2026**, EAM **S. Jaishankar** said the pact is in its final stretch but "**never done till it's done**"; US President **Donald Trump** called it "pretty close" and Secretary of State **Marco Rubio** said the sides are "about as close as you can be".
Key Facts	■ Talks over **a year**: market access, tariffs, **farm goods**, industrial products, regulatory barriers. ■ Rubio visited **Mumbai** and the **Jamnagar refinery** — his 2nd India trip in under 5 months. ■ US agenda: **energy trade, defence, civil nuclear** cooperation, US tech purchases. ■ India stresses **energy diversification** — avoiding over-dependence on any one crude supplier.
Way Fwd	Shield sensitive farm and dairy lines while winning tariff relief for labour-intensive exports such as textiles, leather and gems.
Concept	**BTA** = Bilateral Trade Agreement; FTAs are allowed under **GATT Art. XXIV** as an exception to the **MFN** rule. **Tariff** = tax on imports; **NTBs** include **SPS** & **TBT** measures.

AgriVoltaics World Conference: 'One Land, Two Harvests' in New Delhi

[ENVIRONMENT] BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Economy – Agriculture & Energy)

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II — agriculture, energy, role of S&T; Prelims — renewable energy schemes, **PM-KUSUM**, climate targets.
Context	The **7th AgriVoltaics World Conference** (**21–23 Oct 2026**, **Bharat Mandapam**, New Delhi), hosted by **MNRE**, is the first held in the **Global South**; an agrivoltaic programme under the next phase of **PM-KUSUM** is planned.
Key Facts	■ **47.5 Mha** cropland technically suitable — about **30%** of India's ~160 Mha. ■ Capital cost **25–30%** above ground-mounted solar, which needs **4–5 acres/MW**. ■ Field studies: **10–20%** yield gains for some crops and **~30%** less water use. ■ Non-fossil capacity **308.03 GW** — over **55%** of the total; the **50%-by-2030** NDC goal is already met.
Way Fwd	Aggregate small plots via **FPOs** (86% holdings are small/marginal) and set crop-first design standards — highly relevant for Bihar's tiny farms.
Concept	**Agrivoltaics**: solar panels and crops on the same land. **PM-KUSUM (2019)**: **A** — up to 2 MW plants on farmland; **B** — standalone solar pumps; **C** — solarising grid pumps/feeders. Agriculture: **State List**; electricity: **Concurrent List**.

Agrivoltaics: 'One Land, Two Harvests'



SIMBEX & AUSTRAHIND 2026: India's Indo-Pacific Drills in Full Swing

[DEFENCE] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-I (Current Events - Defence)**

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-I — national & international current events; Prelims — military exercises, partner countries, venues.
Context	The **33rd SIMBEX** with Singapore is on at **Visakhapatnam** (**21–26 Oct**), while the **5th AUSTRAHIND** with Australia runs at **Thiruvananthapuram** till **1 Nov**; **IBSAMAR IX** ended on **20 Oct**.
Key Facts	■ SIMBEX began in **1994** as **Exercise Lion King**; sea phase **24–26 Oct** in the **Bay of Bengal**. ■ Ships: **INS Nilgiri** (P-17A), **INS Kamorta** (P-28) with Singapore's **RSS Supreme**. ■ AUSTRAHIND: **240** personnel; **New Zealand** observers for the first time. ■ **IBSAMAR IX** (India–Brazil–South Africa) ended at **Simon's Town**; India sent **INS Tarkash**.
Way Fwd	Turn interoperability into logistics pacts and shared maritime awareness through **IFC-IOR, Gurugram**.
Concept	**Look East (1992) → Act East (2014)**; India–Singapore **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2024)**; India–Australia **CSP (2020)**; **MAHASAGAR (2025)** succeeds **SAGAR (2015)**.

RRI Finds Evidence of Accretion Disk Around Pulsar Centaurus X-3

[SCI-TECH] **BPSC: Prelims + Mains GS-II (Science & Technology)**

Syllabus Linkage	Mains GS-II — S&T developments by Indian institutions; Prelims — space science basics (neutron stars, pulsars).
Context	Scientists at Bengaluru's **Raman Research Institute** (autonomous under **DST**), led by **Kinjal Roy**, found evidence that X-ray pulsar **Centaurus X-3** pulls matter through an **accretion disk** — rare for pulsars of its kind.
Key Facts	■ Cen X-3 is a **high-mass X-ray binary (HMXB)**; companion star of **~10+ solar masses**. ■ Distance about **24,000 light years**, in the constellation **Centaurus**. ■ **Four secondary emission lines** vary in step with a structure **co-rotating** with the pulsar — an accretion stream. ■ Cen X-3 was the **first X-ray pulsar** discovered (**1971**, Uhuru satellite).
Way Fwd	Use **AstroSat** and upcoming Indian X-ray missions for follow-up spectroscopy and train more space-science talent.
Concept	**Pulsar**: fast-spinning, highly magnetised **neutron star** emitting beamed radiation. **Accretion disk**: flattened disc of matter spiralling onto a compact object, heated to X-ray temperatures. **RRI** was founded by **C.V. Raman** in **1948**.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE Bihar + National quick facts

Sports	**Asian Para Games 2026**: **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan** (18–24 Oct); India had **35 medals (9 gold)** by 20 Oct.
Bihar Cabinet	**Bihar Cabinet** meets today (**5 PM**) under CM **Samrat Choudhary**.
Exams	**Bihar STET 2026** shifted from **4 Nov** to **21 Nov**.
Railways	**Patna Junction** decongestion: **5 new platforms** at **Harding Park** terminal.
Infrastructure	**Vikramshila Setu** (Ganga, Bhagalpur) to get a digital **bridge health monitoring system**.
IR	**IBSA** was formalised by the **Brasilia Declaration** (**6 June 2003**).

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER BPSC-pattern MCQs + Mains

Q1. With reference to the State Legislative Council, consider the following statements: 1. One-twelfth of its members are elected by graduates of at least three years' standing residing in the State. 2. One-twelfth are elected by teachers of at least three years' standing in institutions not lower than secondary school. 3. About one-sixth are nominated by the Governor. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d) — **Art. 171(3)**: 1/3 by MLAs, 1/3 by local bodies, **1/12 graduates**, **1/12 teachers**, the rest (~**1/6**) **nominated by the Governor**. All three are correct. Bihar votes today on 4 graduates' and 4 teachers' seats.

Q2. The VB-G RAM G scheme, under which Bihar has resumed rural works in all 38 districts, guarantees how many days of wage employment per rural household in a year, and in what Centre–State funding ratio?

(a) 100 days; 75:25
(b) 120 days; 90:10
(c) 125 days; 60:40
(d) 150 days; 50:50

Answer: (c) — **VB-G RAM G** (in force from **1 July 2026**, replacing MGNREGA) guarantees up to **125 days** a year; costs are shared **60:40** between the Centre and the State.

MAINS PRACTICE Bihar faces floods in the north and drought in the south, often in the same year. Explain the geographical reasons for this dual hazard and assess how a rural employment guarantee can be used to build climate resilience in the state. (BPSC Mains GS-II)

Hint: North: Himalayan rivers (**Kosi, Gandak, Bagmati**), heavy silt, shifting courses, Nepal catchment. South: plateau fringe, low and erratic rain, porous soils. Link **VB-G RAM G** (125 days) works — ahar-pyne revival, ponds, embankment repair — with **Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali**; end with migration and women's work benefits.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Today's 3 numbers: **125 days** (VB-G RAM G, 60:40) • **1/12 + 1/12** graduates & teachers in MLC (**Art. 171**) • **₹2,441/qtl** paddy MSP from **1 Nov**.

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team • ▶ **YouTube: @Study_ForGS** • ➤ **Telegram: t.me/studyforgeneralstudies**